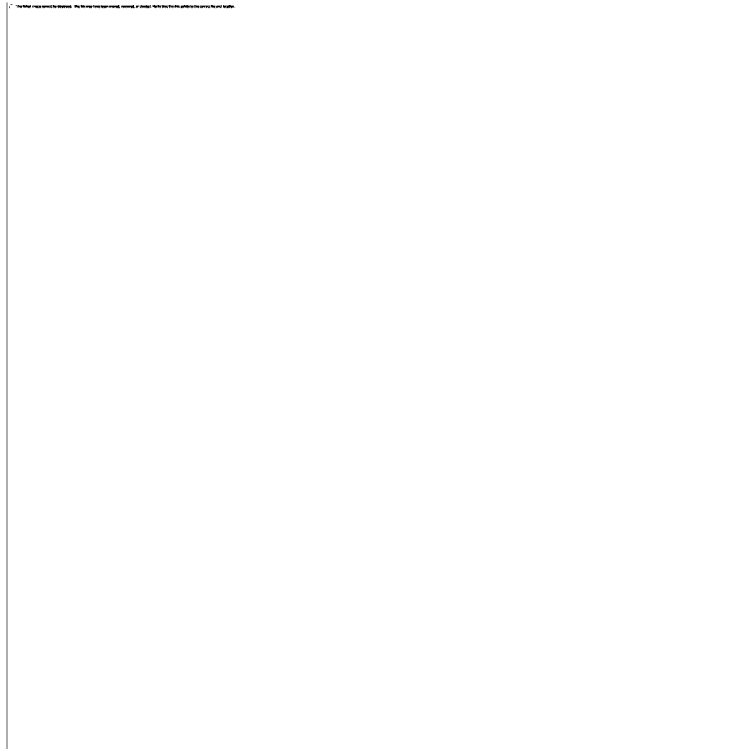
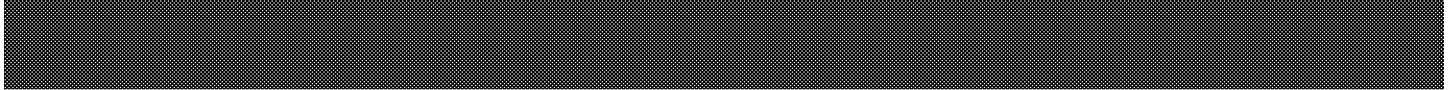


Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 8/15/2018 12:33:19 PM
To: Woods, Clint [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc65010f5c2e48f4bc2aa050db50d198-Woods, Clint]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Rollback of Clean Power Plan Said to Give States More Power Over Coal-Fired Plants



By Jacqueline Toth

Top Stories

- The Trump administration intends to give states greater latitude to create their own rules to make coal-fired power plants more efficient or to request permission to opt out of such regulations, under a proposed replacement of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, according to an unpublished draft and a source familiar with other parts of the plan. The proposal's release is expected in the coming days. (Politico)

- Environmental Protection Agency staff cast doubt on the Transportation Department's calculations of the benefits of the Trump administration's proposed changes to federal fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for certain vehicles, according to an internal June 18 memo posted online by the EPA. The memo estimates that the changes would increase traffic deaths by 17 annually from 2036-2045 due to increased vehicle traffic, instead of the annual reduction of 150 deaths over that period as forecast by the Transportation Department, and that the new fuel efficiency plan would result in net societal costs of \$83 billion rather than the Transportation Department's estimate of \$49 billion in net benefits. ([Reuters](#))
- Onshore oil and gas developer Diamondback Energy Inc. will buy Energen Corp. through an all-stock deal of about \$8.4 billion that would give Diamondback shareholders ownership of about 62 percent of the combined company and Energen shareholders control of the rest. Completion of the deal, which is valued at \$9.2 billion including debt, would mean the new entity would control 390,000 acres in the Permian Basin. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

Chart Review

U.S. refineries running at near-record highs
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

2018 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum	8:30 a.m.
American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference	10:30 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources legislative hearing on monument, memorial, national park and other bills	4 p.m.

THURSDAY

American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference	8 a.m.
2018 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum	8:30 a.m.
Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act	10 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources confirmation hearing on Energy Department nominees	10 a.m.

FRIDAY

American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference	8 a.m.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration briefing on Alaskan climate conditions	4 p.m.

CSR & Political Activism in the Trump Era

How to avoid a firestorm, improve your brand's reputation.

General

Scientists report political meddling, self-censorship
Christa Marshall and Sean Reilly, E&E News

Federal scientists at EPA, the Interior Department and other agencies are reporting political interference with their work, requests to remove "climate change" from research and declining staff levels, a new survey of government employees said.

Science and Health Leaders Lay Out Evidence Against EPA's 'Secret Science' Rule
Marianne Lavelle, InsideClimate News

Arguing that public health and safety are at risk, researchers, health experts and administrators from leading scientific institutions across the nation have joined in opposition to a controversial Trump administration proposal that would restrict the use of science in federal policy making.

Federal oversight board orders changes to PREPA budget
Gavin Bade, Utility Dive

The federal oversight board that reviews Puerto Rico's finances on Monday sent notices to the island's power and water utilities, saying their proposed budgets are not compliant with the board's fiscal plans.

Zinke blames 'environmental terrorist groups' for scale of California wildfires
Miranda Green, The Hill

Zinke, who visited neighborhoods ravaged by the state's largest wildfire ever over the weekend and on Monday, said environmentalists and green regulations in California made the fires much worse.

Wanted, once again: BLM deputy director
Scott Streater, E&E News

Richard Cardinale, the Bureau of Land Management's acting deputy director of operations, is out after a 60-day stint overseeing the day-to-day operations of the federal government's largest land management agency.

Oil falls on U.S. stocks rise, weaker economic outlook
Christopher Johnson, Reuters

Oil prices fell on Wednesday, weighed down by a gloomier global economic outlook and a report of rising U.S. crude inventories, even as U.S. sanctions on Tehran threatened to curb Iranian crude oil supplies.

Oil and Natural Gas

Exxon Must Face Class-Action Suit Over Climate-Change Accounting

Tom Korosec, Bloomberg

Exxon Mobil Corp. must face a lawsuit by investors who blamed a drop in the company's shares on the disclosure that regulators were scrutinizing its reserve accounting related to climate change.

Cheniere makes feedgas request for Corpus Christi LNG export facility

Harry Weber and Ross Wyeno, Platts

Cheniere Energy wants to introduce feedgas to the first liquefaction unit at its LNG export facility in Texas as it prepares to begin production before the end of the year.

The Key to Big Profits in Clean Energy: Animal Fats

Sarah Kent, The Wall Street Journal

One of the best-performing stocks in the global oil sector this year is a company that makes most of its money without touching crude.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Puerto Rico utility completes restoration 10 months after Maria

Jessica Resnick-Ault, Reuters

Puerto Rico's electric utility said it completed restoration of power to all of its customers on Tuesday, more than ten months after Hurricane Maria left 1.5 million homes and businesses in the dark.

PG&E's landmark energy storage projects snagged by pushback

Peter Maloney, Utility Dive

It may not be smooth sailing for Pacific Gas and Electric's landmark energy storage projects.

Needing pipeline capacity, ConEd to launch gas demand response program

Sarah Smith, Platts

Aiming to reduce the need for new gas pipe or other costly alternatives, Consolidated Edison will be able to launch a pilot program to manage gas demand after a New York state regulator gave its approval.

Exit fee: Deciding the fate of California's utilities and customer choice movement

Herman K. Trabish, Utility Dive

Promised more renewables and lower utility bills, customers in California are flocking to newly-emerging Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs and Direct Access (DA) providers.

Hydro One Replaces Board as Quarterly Profit Beats Estimates

Michael Bellusci, Bloomberg

Hydro One Ltd. has replaced its board after its former directors were ousted by Ontario Premier Doug Ford in a mission to overhaul the Toronto-based utility.

Renewables

Investors Should Brace for a Drawn-Out Tussle Between Elon Musk and the SEC

Matt Robinson and Benjamin Bain, Bloomberg

As the bizarre Tesla Inc. go-private saga enters its ninth day, many investors are wondering when regulators will decide whether Elon Musk broke the rules by dripping out details so haphazardly.

Saudi fund may only play minor part in Musk's \$72 billion Tesla plan: bankers

Andrew Torchia, Reuters

Elon Musk told investors this week that "obviously, the Saudi sovereign fund has more than enough capital needed" to finance taking Tesla private.

How Saudi's Stake in Tesla Could Help Musk Go Private
Sarah Algethami, Bloomberg

With the Saudi government hoping to grow its Public Investment Fund to more than \$2 trillion by 2030, it seems that the interests of both parties may have aligned.

Coal

Cost of Coal: Electric Bills Skyrocket in Appalachia as Region's Economy Collapses
James Bruggers, InsideClimate News

As natural gas and renewables get cheaper elsewhere, residents in Appalachia are stuck paying for coal-fired power plants that no longer make economic sense.

Nuclear

Defense Measure Has Potential to Create Leader in Fledgling Micro-Reactor Market
Jacqueline Toth, Morning Consult

President Donald Trump's signature on the fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act opens the door to eventually outfitting the Defense Department with smaller nuclear reactors it has said could help ensure the energy resilience of its bases and potentially cementing an industry leader in the promising new market of micro-reactors.

435 tons of toxic Hanford waste kept out of Columbia River
Annette Cary, Tri-City Herald

Hanford workers have removed 90 tons of contaminants from Hanford groundwater over the last 10 months, keeping it from reaching the Columbia River.

Climate

Seattle judge dismisses young activists' climate lawsuit
The Associated Press

A Washington state judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by young activists who argued the state is violating their rights by failing to protect them from climate change.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

How to Solve a Problem Like Elon?

Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., The Wall Street Journal

Elon Musk is extraordinarily popular with the public, with shareholders, with politicians. His company is worth \$60 billion in the marketplace.

The San Onofre nuclear plant is a 'Fukushima waiting to happen'

Steve Chapple, Los Angeles Times

Southern California Edison is keeping 3.6 million pounds of lethal radioactive waste at the shuttered San Onofre nuclear plant in San Clemente.

Unclear Which Way Wind Blows After Reversal Of Alta Wind

Julie Marion et al., Law360

On July 27, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit handed down its decision in Alta Wind Owner Lessor C et al. v. United States, reversing a taxpayer-friendly decision by the Court of Federal Claims in 2016 that had been widely applauded by the renewable energy sector, which benefits from valuable federal income tax subsidies generated by their projects.

Research Reports

A novel probabilistic forecast system predicting anomalously warm 2018-2022 reinforcing the long-term global warming trend

Florian Sévellec and Sybren S. Drijfhout, Nature Communications

Here we develop a novel method to predict global-mean surface air temperature and sea surface temperature, based on transfer operators, which allows, by-design, probabilistic forecasts. The prediction accuracy is equivalent to operational forecasts and its reliability is high.



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